

Mapline

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The Newberry *Sfera* and the Study of Renaissance Geography

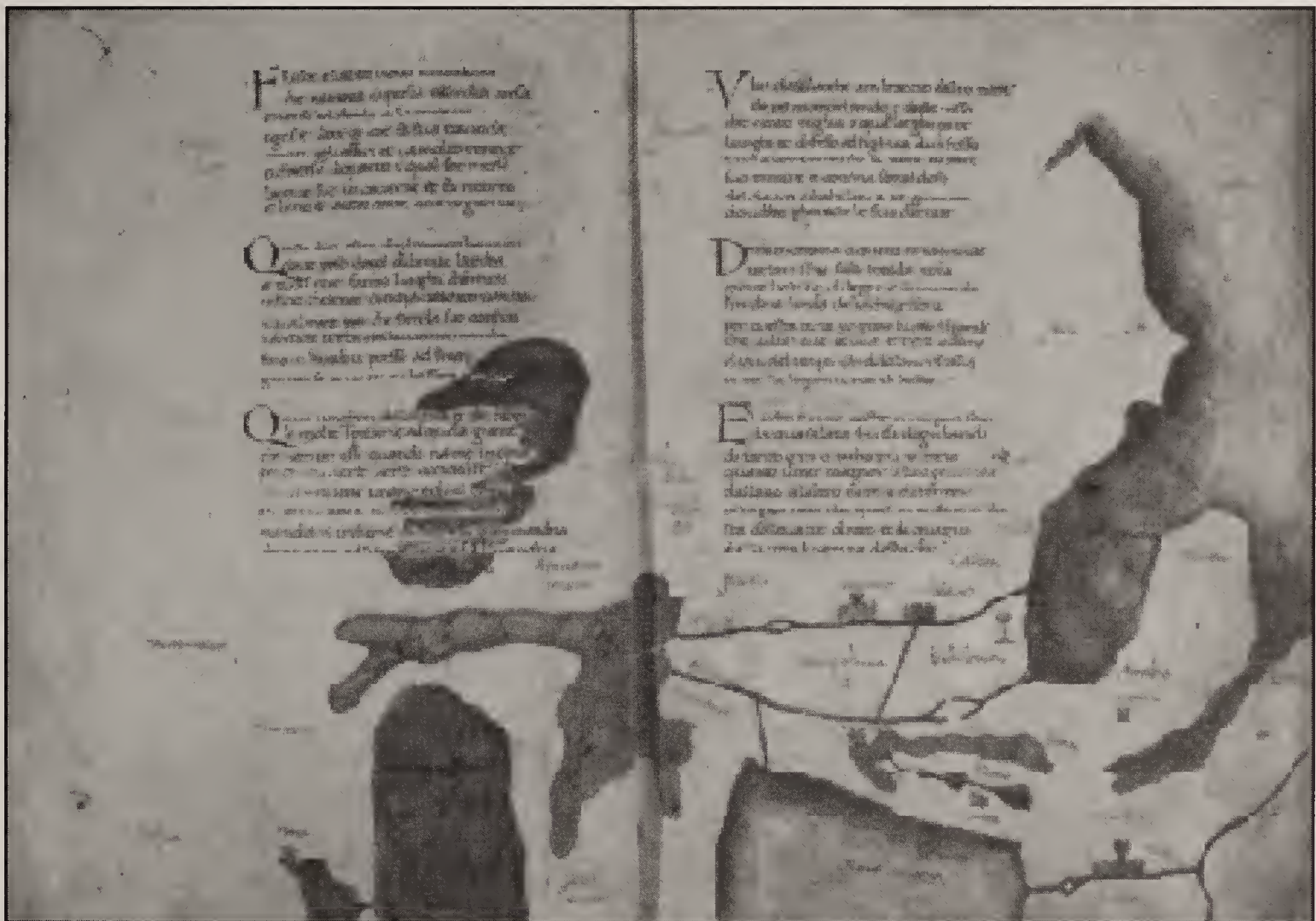


Figure 1. A page from Newberry MS Ayer Map 1, f. 15v-16r, Gregorio Dati's *Sfera*, representing the Holy Land. The Mediterranean is on the lower right, the Indian Ocean on the far right, and the Black Sea on the bottom left. The map bears striking similarities to Ptolemy's *Tabula Asiae IV*, but with unique graphic conventions.

Much contemporary research on Renaissance cartography has centered around European exploration and the mapping of the new world. The graphic knowledge conveyed by increasingly detailed and accurate maps is a seductive pleasure that delights historians and confirms assumptions about western culture and its place in the world. Medieval maps are, by contrast, not exclusively a representation of the "real" world; they combine geographical with historical and theological knowledge. Medieval *mappamundi* explain man's place in the cosmos and his role in salvation history from the fall of Adam and Eve to the apocalyptic last days. Between these extremes are the

encyclopedia maps of Macrobius and Isidore; these represent in schematic format what was believed to be the actual earth's surface as it was then understood, often with mythical but rarely theological dimensions. Dati's *Sfera*, written before 1435, draws on all three traditions. The *Sfera* was a didactic text, designed for self-instruction in astronomy and geography, and as such, it provides a window on the world as the merchant class of Florence understood, lived, and traveled in it.

The Newberry possesses a beautifully illustrated manuscript copy of the *Sfera* with a complete set of illuminations. The text of the *Sfera* dates from sometime

before 1435, when its author, Gregorio Dati, died. A Florentine merchant who rose from humble beginnings as the grandson of a purse vender to a position of prominence in the city council, Gregorio Dati (1362-1435) was eventually appointed Standard Bearer of Justice, the highest civic office in Florence, in 1429. Some manuscripts of the *Sfera* attribute the work to Gregorio's brother Leonardo (1360-1425), a Dominican friar who became master general of his order, but most scholars agree this is a false attribution. Although Leonardo was well known as an author of sermons and commentaries on Aristotle, what survives of his works is written in Latin. In addition to the *Sfera*, Gregorio is also the author of the *History of Florence 1380-1406*, a chronicle of Florence's war with Giangaleazzo Visconti, the despotic Duke of Milan (1351-1402), written in Italian. We also know a great deal about Gregorio's life from a register he kept (a *ricordanze*) in which he recorded various business and personal information. This was a common practice in Renaissance Florence. Such books, called *libri segreti* (secret books) to distinguish them from official business registers, were often beautifully bound in brilliantly dyed leather covers color coded to distinguish the public from the private and various years and business ventures. In his *ricordanze*, Dati describes his business ventures as a silk merchant with extensive international contacts who often traveled across the western Mediterranean to conduct business in Spain. After the death of his first wife in 1390, he lived in Valencia for two years, where he sired a son with a Tartar slave named Maria. He sent his son, whom he named Thomas, back to Florence.

The journal reveals that in 1393, Gregorio set out for Valencia again but was set upon by pirates from Briganzone near the Riviera (outside of Genoa). He lost personal assets including pearls, merchandise and clothing valued at 250 *florins* and company merchandise valued at 300 *florins*. He alluded to this event and to the perils of sea travel in general in his *Sfera*, where he wrote:

And with a chart on which are marked the winds and ports and all the coastlines, merchants and pirates sail the sea—one for profit, the other for plunder. And in an instant the rich and unlucky know, sometimes in the evening and sometimes in the morning, that Fortune in any other thing does not show herself so ruinous.

At the end of his *ricordanze*, we learn that Gregorio had twenty children, ten boys and ten girls, by three different wives; each of his wives and all but five of his children had predeceased him by 1427, the last year Gregorio recorded



Figure 2. Folio 2v of the Newberry *Sfera* shows the universe as earth-centered, a common perception of the Cosmos in the early fifteenth century.

his affairs in the ledger. That Gregorio had an interest in education is clear from his Florentine history, which describes the development of the city's unique governing structure in great detail. The *Sfera* was yet another way to communicate vital information about the world outside of Florence to his fellow citizens.

The *Sfera* opens with a discussion of the cosmos; Dati's text and diagrams represent the traditional earth-centered view of the universe common in the early fifteenth century. Once man's place in the cosmos is established, Dati turns to discuss various astrological phenomena such as solar and lunar eclipses. Dati adopted the common encyclopedic technique of placing diagrams in the margins of his work to explicate the text and to serve as an *aide-memoire* (see Figure 3). Dati was the first to refer to Isidore's world map as a T-O map, and his verses assisted the student in committing this description to memory:

The drawing of a T inside an O shows how the world was divided into three parts, and the upper and larger realm, which takes almost half the circle, is called Asia; the straight leg, the sign that separates the third name from the second, separates Africa from Europe. The Mediterranean Sea appears in the middle between them [that is, the stem of the T].

Dati's T-O map (Figure 3), following Isidore's example, neatly divides the continents into three parts; his non-schematic map found directly under the Isidorian map,



Figure 3. From top left: Isidore of Seville's T-O map from his *Etymologiarum* (Augsburg, 1472), Dati's T-O map (top right) and world map (bottom right); Macrobius' map of the world with spheres (bottom left) from his *Commentary on the Dream of Scipio* (Brescia, 1485).

more realistically portrays the same division of the continents. One can easily make out the boot of Italy at the center of the Mediterranean and the Arabian peninsula separated from Africa by the Nile. If Dati incorporated Isidore's diagram because it was a useful didactic tool, he also wanted his readers to know that the diagram didn't represent the actual shapes and relationships of the land masses. The astronomical and cosmological part of Dati's book have excited little interest and little research, despite the fact that his work was the first in western Europe designed to convey such information, often believed to be unnecessary or even dangerous, to the "common man."

In the last part of the *Sfera*, Dati treats lands around the southern and southeastern Mediterranean. Here Dati employs two different types of maps. His maps of Jerusalem and the Holy Land (see Figure 1) seem to draw on the Ptolemaic tradition of map making, which is possible as Ptolemy's *Geography* was translated into Latin between 1406 and 1409 by Jacopo Angeli da Scarperia, and maps based on his translation appeared within twenty years, well before the Dati's death in 1435. Without ports, rhumb lines, or roads, Dati's map of the Holy Land would not have been useful for physical travel. Instead, his goal may have been to provide a graphic context for the people, places, and events in Biblical and ancient history. Roger Bacon, justifying the study of geography and the making of maps in his *Opus Maius* (c. 1268), writes:

... if one does not understand the physical form of the world, history is apt to become a stale and tasteless crust. . . But if he can picture to himself what the places named [in scripture] are like, and has learned their positions, their distances [from each other], their distance up or down, their longitude and latitude. . . then the letter of history will fill him with pleasure, and he can easily and confidently advance to a realization of its spiritual sense. (trans. Herbert Howe).

Dati's map illustrates the major cities in the Holy Land, the historically significant waterways, mountain ranges and their relative relationship to each other. Like his earlier maps, Dati's maps of the Holy Land have not been extensively studied.

What has attracted the historian's attention has been Dati's unique use of portolan charts in the last quarter of the work. Portolan maps largely fall into two categories: actual charts used to navigate the Mediterranean, Black Sea and the eastern Atlantic, the utilitarian function of which is manifest, when the maps survive at all, in their often worn condition; and at the opposite extreme, display copies, such as the *Lopes Atlas*, produced to display the power of the Portuguese empire in the sixteenth century. Dati was the only cartographer in the Renaissance to fragment portolan maps and press them into the service in an educational primer. His use of the portolan maps indicates his intention of providing the most up-to-date and accurate maps then available for his primary audience: Florentine merchants. Historians in the early part of the twentieth century dismissed Dati's work because the charts did not demonstrate new knowledge (they only represent the coast of Africa as far south as the Canary or Fortunate Islands, information available from 1336), and they were not particularly good portolan maps—there are no rhumb lines, making them useless for navigation, and because they are fragmented, there is no path across the Mediterranean—the maps are useful only for those skirting along the shorelines. What Dati does provide, however, is the information necessary not for sailors but for merchants and traders—the distance between major trading ports and their location relative to each other.

Despite their fragmentation and their clearly didactic intention, there is no question that Dati's maps are aesthetically appealing. The artist who copied the Newberry *Sfera* made creative use of the images by extending the shores of the Mediterranean into the text itself so that the words form little islands. In his map of the Holy Land (see Figure 1), the Caspian Sea engulfs the end

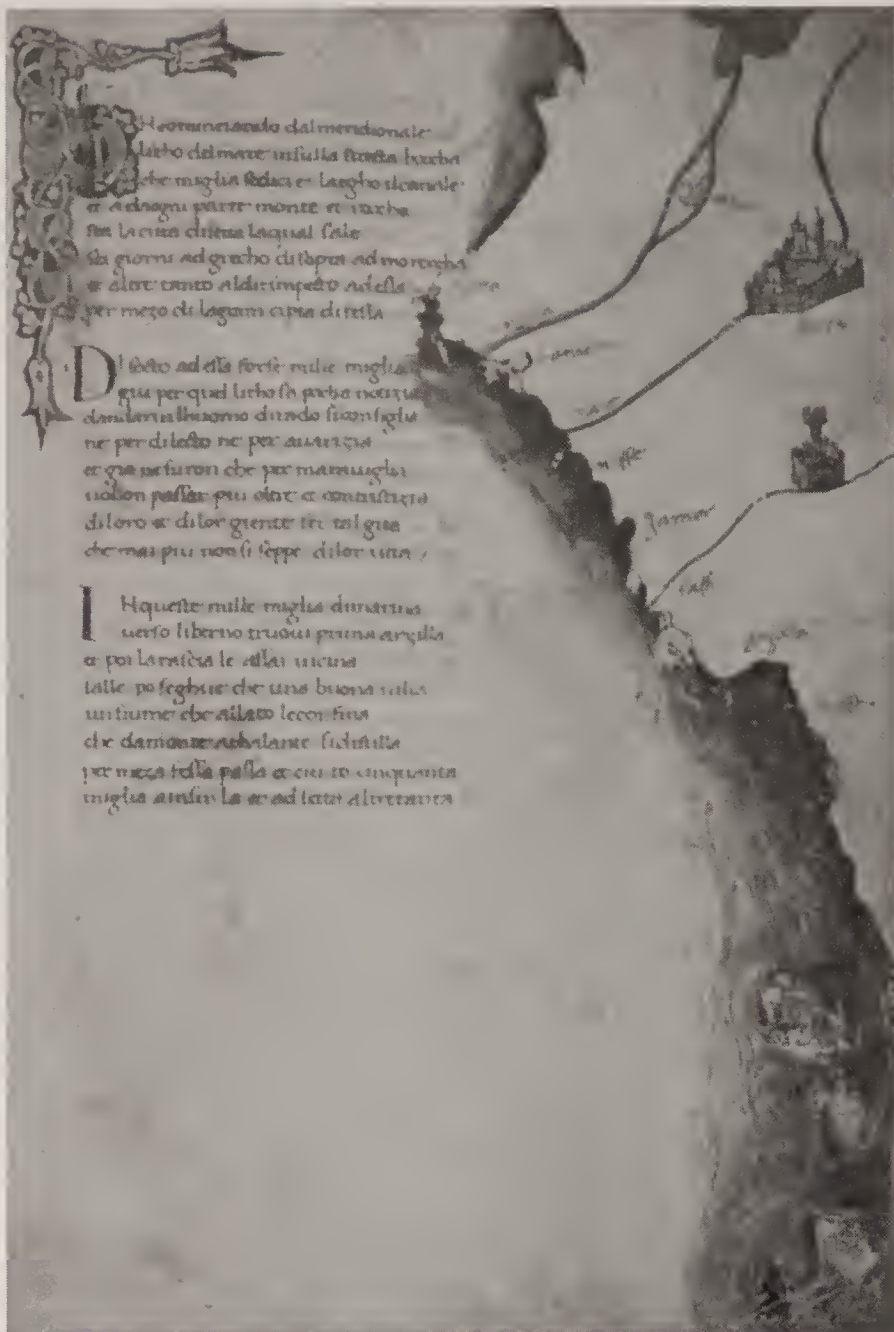


Figure 4. The coast of extreme northwestern Africa. The large inland city is Fez in present-day Morocco. The Canary or Fortunate Islands, now worn, are in the lower right. Note how the map literally continues off the page.

of the second and the entire third stanza. The Tigris and Euphrates radiate from the mountains, with the region of Mesopotamia between them. Babylon is identified by the tower of Babel (here illustrated by a pillar), and Mecca is shown as a stone box in Arabia. Noah's ark is shown as a wooden house at the top of the Caucasus mountains, just to the right of the crease in the center of the manuscript. Depth has been indicated by color, and movement is portrayed by wavy lines that radiate out from the coast. His map of Fez and the Canary Islands is equally striking (see Figure 4). Here the text is the Mediterranean with the coast of Africa jutting into the text. The map follows the coast to the Fortunate Islands before it reaches the end of the known world and the end of the page.

The Newberry's *Sfera* is an early copy of this significant work. There is a coat of arms, as yet unidentified, on the front page of the work, indicating that this manuscript was copied for a particular individual. Based on an examination of the codex, we can be sure that the Newberry *Sfera* was composed in the manner typical for the fifteenth century:

the text was copied first, followed by the initial letters in blue; then the marginal summaries were written, and finally the vinestem illumination and maps themselves were drawn. The Newberry *Sfera* is creased down the middle, indicating that the manuscript was almost certainly folded and carried in a pocket, consistent with its use for instruction.

Although the *Sfera* does not further our knowledge of western exploration and expansion, it serves a vital role in demonstrating what Europeans at the dawn of the age of exploration and before the invention of print knew and what they wanted to know about the world around them. It shows us that members of the merchant class wanted to know the secrets behind the movement of the heavens and the scientific explanations of solar and lunar eclipses. They wanted to know the layout of the Holy Land, including both Christian and Islamic sites, and the subsequent history of the region. Finally, the fragmented maps that dominate the margins in the last quarter of the work demonstrate the practical working knowledge that a merchant needed to conduct his business, such as where various ports were located and how far away from each other they were. Educational texts are often not the most advanced scholarship, but they are vital for communicating the information most needed by the majority of the population. As such, Dati's *Sfera* provides an insight into European consciousness and its view of the world.

Raymond Clemens, former acting director of the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies and now assistant professor at Illinois State University, is working on a monograph on Gregorio Dati's *Sfera* entitled *Mapping on the Margins: Cartography and Geographical Education in Renaissance Europe*.

This article is largely derived from the author's recent publication, *Newberry Library Slide Set 29: Gregorio Dati's Sfera and Geographical Education in Fifteenth-Century Florence*, produced in part through participation in "Popular Cartography and Society," a summer institute organized by the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography in the summer of 2001.



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Smith Center Hosts “Popular Cartography and Society”

From July 9 to August 10, 2001, the Smith Center welcomed 25 college and university teachers from across the country to Chicago to collectively explore the topic, “Popular Cartography and Society.” The institute was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of its summer seminars and institutes program. Under the direction of Center Director James Akerman, the institute sought to develop an interdisciplinary appreciation of the history, nature, and social impact of major types popular mapping, including journalistic cartography, historical and educational maps and atlases, and maps for travel and tourism. During the institute the participants pursued a course of reading, and attended seminars and workshops led by a faculty of ten historians, geographers, and cartographers. The participants also had the opportunity to pursue research projects of their own design, utilizing the Newberry’s internationally renowned collection of historic cartography and related humanities collections. Each participant presented a report on their research at the close of the institute, and 11 of them took the proffered opportunity to prepare slide sets that have been subsequently published in printed and/or virtual editions.

The 25 participating scholars (listed below) were selected from a highly competitive nationwide pool of applicants. The participants represented institutions in 17 states, from Idaho to Florida, including both state and private institutions, small colleges, commuter-oriented schools, and large universities. They represented a wide variety of scholarly disciplines as well, including French and English literature, philosophy, American and European history, and geography. This diversity was reflected in their research interests, which ranged from the study of gender on road map art, to the political maps appearing in Cold War era news magazines, to the study of mapping in colonial North America.

On most mornings during the first four weeks of the institute, the participants attended 3-hour seminars led by the director or visiting faculty, each of whom was an expert on a particular genre or period of popular cartography. During the first week of the institute, lectures given by Dr. Akerman and Matthew Edney (University of Southern Maine) explored the recent expansion of scholarly interest in medieval, traditional non-Western, and informal or popular cartographies and the theoretical perspectives underpinning this expansion. Lectures by David Woodward (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Akerman, and Mary Pedley (William L. Clements Library, the University of Michigan) during the second week provided an overview of the map production, trade, and consumption from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. The program moved in the third and fourth weeks to a series of sessions focused on particular forms of popular cartography and their social

and cultural context, drawing primarily upon Anglo-American examples. John Long, director of the Newberry’s Atlas of Historical County Boundaries project, discussed the history and practice of historical atlas making. Next, distinguished historical geographer Michael Conzen (University of Chicago) discussed the history of nineteenth-century county land ownership maps and atlases and their representations of American rural landscape and culture. Cartographer Jeffrey Patton (University of North Carolina-Greensboro) followed with a discussion of the relationship between pedagogical practices, children’s comprehension of maps, and school atlas design in the eighteenth through early twentieth centuries. Susan Schulten (History, University of Denver) examined the interaction between cartography and American geographical and geopolitical ideas during the ascendancy of the United States as a world power from the late nineteenth century to the onset of the Cold War. James Akerman reviewed British and American cartography for tourists since the eighteenth century and its place in the formation and reinforcement of national identities. Then cartographer and map historian Mark Monmonier (Syracuse University) discussed the history of journalistic cartography, arguably the most common and influential of all forms of modern cartography. Gerald Danzer (History, University of Illinois at Chicago), closed the program of lectures with an examination of maps produced for urban consumers in North America.

On two successive Monday afternoons we held workshops in the Library’s map room dedicated to the development of the participants’ map analysis skills and to the cross-disciplinary sharing of ideas. In each workshop, the participants worked in small groups to analyze pairs of related maps. Their collective readings of the maps were recorded as short imaginary exhibit captions, which they read and discussed with the entire group at the close of each workshop. On free days and on most afternoons, the participants pursued their own independent research projects. The projects took several forms. Some were directed at the development or improvement of courses they would teach in the near future. For example, Mark Koch (English, University of Michigan) has developed and taught a new course entitled “Land, Money, Identity” using research he pursued during the institute. Geographer Daniel Block was inspired by his participation in the institute to inject a critical examination of the history of cartography into the cartography course he teaches at Chicago State University. Historian Andrea Foroughi has used cartographic resources she developed during the institute to enrich two courses on the history of the American frontier and the history of American Indians.

Several participants have developed research papers during the institute that they have subsequently presented at scholarly meetings. At least two of these papers have been

accepted for publication in scholarly journals or collections. Participant Christina Dando organized a series of two paper sessions and one panel discussion presenting the work of the institute at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles in March 2002. The sessions included presentations by participants Daniel Block, Michael Crutcher, Christina Dando, Jordana Dym, Andrea Foroughi, Christine Petto, and Karen Trifonoff.

The participants have also added eleven new titles to the Center's list of interpretive slide sets. Seven of these sets have been printed as Newberry Library slide sets 28-34, and are currently available from The Newberry Library Bookstore (312-255-3520; newberrybooks1@msn.com). An eighth printed set (number 35) will be available soon. Six of these sets may also be viewed online as part of a growing series of "virtual" slide sets we are posting on the Smith Center pages of the Newberry Library's Web site. Three additional slide sets prepared by Popular Cartography participants have been published exclusively in the "virtual" format. A list of the slide sets published as part of Popular Cartography and Society program is provided on page 11. For further information about or to view these and other sets in the Center's series of slide sets, please visit on-line at www.newberry.org/nl/smith/L3rsmith.html.

Throughout, the 25 participants seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. These institutes give their participants an extraordinary opportunity to interact with teachers from other fields and to use research collections that are inaccessible to them at home. Several of them have subsequently written to express how rewarding, and even transforming, the experience had been. Their positive response to the 2001 institute encouraged us to follow-up with the development of a comparable institute for school teachers. This new institute, entitled "Everyday Maps: Teaching and Historical Perspectives," has received NEH funding and will be offered in summer 2003 (see page 8).

Participating scholars

Daniel Block, Chicago State University (Geography), Images of the Midwest and of agriculture in automobile road map iconography

Nancy Bouzrara, University of Southern Maine (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Cartographic influences on Marguerite de Navarre's *Heptameron*

Ray Clemens, Illinois State University (History), Sources and development of Dati's *La Sfera*

Elsbeth Carruthers, University of Illinois Chicago (History), Maps and colonization in medieval and Renaissance Europe

Robert Churchill, Middlebury College (Geography), Mapping Chicago

JoAnn Conrad, University of Missouri (English), Tourist mapping and folklore

Michael Crutcher, Xavier University of New Orleans (History), Race and the image of New Orleans in tourist mapping

Christina Dando, University of Nebraska at Omaha (Geography), Gender and road map iconography

Jordana Dym, Skidmore College (History), Maps in travelers accounts and guidebooks for Central America

Jackie Fenno, University of Alaska (Geography/Library), Mapping of native Alaska and its history for native Alaskans

Andrea Foroughi, Union College (History), Images of empire in colonial North America

Doug Gardner, Miami University - Hamilton (History), The Civil War in popular cartography

Jack Haymond, Northland Community College (History/Geography), The mapping of World's Fairs

Jon Heggund, Central Connecticut State University (English), Literary and cartographic conceptions of Imperial Africa

Cyndy Hendershot, Arkansas State University (English/Philosophy), Cartography and literature; Cold War cartography

Bangbo Hu, Villanova University (Geography), The depiction of landscape on maps

Mark Koch, St. Mary's College (English), Maps in eighteenth-century British periodicals

Robin Lorentzen, Albertson College (Sociology), The depiction of the Caribbean in popular cartography

Gary Mormino, University of Southern Florida (History), The image of Florida in tourist maps

Karen Mulcahy, East Carolina University (Geography), The history of map projections in popular world maps

Mary Murphy, Montana State University (History/Philosophy), Depictions of women and labor on maps

Antony Oldknow, Eastern New Mexico University (Languages and Literature), Cold war cartography

Christine Petto, Southern Connecticut State University (History), Map promotion in Early Modern Europe

Wendy Plotkin, University of Illinois-Chicago (History), The image of Chicago in popular cartography

Karen Trifonoff, Bloomsburg University (Geography), The history of pedagogic mapping

2001 Nebenzahl Lectures Held in Conjunction with International Map Collectors' Society Annual Symposium

For historians of cartography the term “commercial cartography” often “has a faintly pejorative air, tending to denote maps of a lesser quality, whether aesthetic or geographic.” So observes Dr. Mary Pedley (William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan), the featured speaker at the Fourteenth Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography, which were held at the Newberry on October 11-13, 2001. After hearing the three virtuoso lectures she delivered over the first two days of the event, few of the two hundred people in attendance would dispute that Dr. Pedley had put this perception to rest. In the early modern world, and perhaps no less today, commercial cartographers were not bottom feeders at the margins of a mainstream of or more scientific or refined cartography. Rather, the commercial motive was central to the mapping enterprise, whether conducted at the behest of governments, scientific organizations, or other interests. “All printed maps are in some way commercial,” Pedley noted, “whether they were created for sale or not. Every aspect of map production from survey and compilation to printing and distribution involved specialized labor and materials to which a value was attached.... Simply put: behind every printed map was someone waiting to be paid.” The theme of the 2001 Nebenzahl Lectures, in which Dr. Pedley’s lectures played the leading role, was *A Taste for Maps: Commerce and Cartography in Early Modern Europe*. Pedley’s three lectures, along with three shorter papers presented during a concluding session, examined the history of the map trade in Europe with a keen eye to the business aspects of cartography, from production to consumption.

The Nebenzahl Lectures were especially festive on this occasion, because the audience included 120 members of the International Map Collectors' Society, here for their Twentieth International Symposium, which included the Nebenzahl Lectures and additional sessions and events lasting through October 16. The event began on Thursday evening, October 11, with the first of three lectures concerned with the map trade in eighteenth-century England and France. “Getting to Market: From Map to Print in London and Paris,” examined the economic aspects of surveying, compiling, editing, and printing maps in eighteenth century England and France. On Friday Pedley presented two additional lectures. “Giving Pleasure to the Public: Adding up to Cost,” presented in the morning, was concerned with the considerations that went into the marketing of maps, including pricing strategies and the protection of what we would today call “intellectual property.” “Good Map/Bad Map: Telling the Difference,” Pedley’s final lecture, was presented on Friday afternoon. Here she considered the criteria by which maps were judged and the strategies cartographers and map publishers devised



(back row) Smith Center Director James Akerman, Markus Heinz, Ken Nebenzahl, Peter van der Krogt, (front row) David Woodward, Mary Pedley, and Jossy Nebenzahl at the 2001 Nebenzahl Lectures.

to improve the quality of their maps. Afterwards, all in attendance gathered for a reception sponsored by the University of Chicago Press, publisher of the books that have emerged from the Nebenzahl Lecture series.

On Saturday morning, a panel of three distinguished international scholars presented shorter papers on the business of mapmaking in other parts of Europe, intended to stimulate a broader discussion of the history of maps as commercial products. First, Dr. David Woodward (University of Wisconsin-Madison) offered a provocative paper focussing on the later sixteenth and early seventeenth century Italian map publishers. Dr. Peter van der Krogt (Universiteit Utrecht) then offered a revealing examination of commercial rivalry in the seventeen-century Netherlands entitled “Hondius-Janssonius vs. Blaeu: Competition in Amsterdam.” Dr. Markus Heinz (Staatsbibliothek Berlin-Preussischer Kulturbesitz) closed the Nebenzahl program with a fascinating look at the marketing and consumer reception of the celebrated work of the Johann Baptist Homann and his heirs entitled, “Commercial Aspects of the Map Trade in Eighteenth-Century Germany.”

After lunch, Oswald Dreyer-Eimbcke, president of the International Map Collectors' Society, formally opened the IMCoS's Twentieth International Symposium. The symposium, hosted by the Newberry Library, the American Geographical Society Collection of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, The Adler Planetarium, the Chicago Map Society, and the Map Society of Wisconsin, was being held for the first time in the American Midwest. First on the agenda was a captivating talk by David Rumsey about his magnificent Web site featuring more than 7,000 high-quality images of historic maps from his personal collection. IMCoS participants were then given the option of touring Chicago by boat, bus, or foot (in a driving rain)

with docents from the Chicago Architecture Foundation. The day closed with a reception at the offices of Roger Baskes, a trustee of the Newberry Library, and now president of IMCoS. During the reception our guests had the opportunity to explore Mr. Baskes's extraordinary collection of atlases, geographies, and guidebooks.

The IMCoS festivities continued on Sunday, October 12. Many participants joined a tour of the private map collections and points of interest of Chicago's northern suburbs, hosted by Barry MacLean, Art and Jan Holzheimer, and Jack Ringer. Former Smith Center director David Buisseret led others on a daylong tour of the historic Illinois and Michigan Canal corridor. The Chicago-based events were capped by a visit on Sunday evening to the spectacular lakefront site of the Adler Planetarium for a reception and viewing of a portion of the museum's huge collection of celestial charts and astronomical instruments.

Early Monday morning, everyone boarded buses for a drive northward to the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which houses the huge research and cartographic collections of the American Geographical Society. The day in Milwaukee began with a reception and viewing of an exhibit of AGS treasures. At lunch the entourage was welcomed by UWM Provost and Vice-Chancellor John A. Wanat and Peter Watson-Boone, Director of the Gold Meir Library, home of the AGS Collection. In the afternoon, the group was treated to four

engaging papers. Chris Baruth, Curator of the AGS Collection, explained the history and character of the collection. Next, the Newberry's Curator of Special Collections and Curator of Maps, Robert W. Karrow, Jr., discussed *The Future of the Private Map Collection*. Ken Nebenzahl shared reminiscences of career as an antiquarian map dealer in an entertaining talk entitled *Collections and Collectors; or, Would You Buy an Old and Probably Inaccurate Map from this Man?* David Woodward closed the program with a report on the progress and prospects of the History of Cartography Project he heads at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

At the close of the afternoon symposium, everyone boarded buses yet again for a brief tour of Milwaukee, concluding at the new wing of the Milwaukee Art Museum, built by world-famous architect Santiago Calatrava. The awe-inspiring central atrium of the museum was the perfect setting for a concluding banquet and lecture, *Did Spain Limit Access to Geographical Information about America in the Eighteenth Century?*, given by John Hébert, Chief of the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. Many guests returned to Chicago that evening. Others remained in Milwaukee to participate in a post-conference Fall Tour of Southern Wisconsin, highlighted by visits to Madison and Taliesin, the historic home and architectural school of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Smith Center Continues Commitment to Geography Education with 2003 Summer Institute for School Teachers

Continuing several years of concentrated efforts in promoting the use of historic maps in humanities courses at the university and K-12 levels, the Smith Center will host a summer institute in 2003 for school teachers entitled "Everyday Maps: Teaching and Historical Perspectives." The institute will explore the history of popular cartography and help teachers develop skills and strategies for using commonplace maps to teach a variety of humanities subjects, including geography, history, literature, and art.

The institute is scheduled for June 30 - July 25, 2003. Teachers of a wide variety of courses and grade levels, at public and private schools, are encouraged to apply. Twenty-four successful applicants will be selected to participate in the four-week program of lectures, seminars, and workshops at the Newberry Library. Participants will receive a stipend of \$2,800 to help defray travel and lodging expenses; all required texts will be provided. Applications must be postmarked by Monday, 3 March 2003.

Throughout the institute, participants and faculty will explore the major contexts in which popular cartography is used: in atlases; in political and commercial rhetoric; and in literature and arts. Many discussions will concern nineteenth- and twentieth-century popular cartography

including journalistic cartography, tourist cartography, transportation mapping, pedagogic cartography, atlases, literary cartography, urban maps and views, and rural landownership mapping. While the institute will have a strong Anglo-American orientation, it will prove useful to teachers whose classes have a variety of global and cultural interests.

During the institute, Newberry Library staff and institute faculty will guide participants through the creation of map-based lesson plans. These plans will loosely follow the format of the "Historic Maps in K-12 Classrooms" Web site being developed by Smith Center. Following the completion of the institute, these plans will be edited and made available to the public via the Internet and will be published in *Mapline*.

For further information and application materials, contact Susan Hanf, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St, Chicago, IL 60610; e-mail hanfs@newberry.org; phone 312-255-3659. These materials are also available at www.newberry.org/K12/everydaymaps.html.

"Everyday Maps: Teaching and Historical Perspectives" is funded by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency.

Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library

Exhibit Honors 2001 International Map Collectors' Society

Thanks to more than a little help from our friends, we were able to commemorate the visit of the International Map Collectors' Society to the Newberry with an exhibit of seventy-seven of the Library's cartographic treasures. For the purposed of this exhibit, which ran from October 10, 2001 to January 19, 2002, we defined a treasure in very broad terms. We observed in the catalogue for the exhibit that the term

usually refers to something of great rarity and value. But while the odds and ends a child stows away in a private 'treasure box' may be worth little in the marketplace, they are valuable beyond measure to the child.... The approximately 300,000 maps in the Newberry Library include many that are rare, beautiful, and valuable in the conventional sense. Some of the finest examples of these find pride of place in *Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library*.... [Yet, while] maps' costliness, rarity, or beauty may catch the eye... their deeper worth lies elsewhere. The value of cartographic documents resides in their ability to speak about the past, to bring to life the people who made or used them, and to animate the landscapes they depict and the cultures that produced them. The maps selected for this exhibit also reflect this broader understanding of treasure.

Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library thus turned out to be an extended meditation on what we, as curators, scholars, and readers treasure about the Newberry's maps.

The exhibit was divided into six sections, each reflecting upon common and seemingly timeless ways in which maps are used. The first section, "Grasping the World," grappled with the most basic of geographical questions: what does the world look like? Showcased here were world and continental maps, as well as atlases and educational tools, that reflected our changing sense of the outlines of the continents and oceans over time. The next part of the exhibit, "Inventing the Nation," pondered the idea that nations are not natural divisions among human beings, but are created by the human mind and human action. The maps selected for this section all played some role in inventing nations — either as tools of government; or as the media of the political debates, news, and ideas that fashioned national identities and enmities. Throughout modern history, warfare has been a powerful stimulus for mapping activity and innovation. Accordingly the third



Cover, *Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library*. Paperback. ISBN 0-911028-71-4. 104 pages, 23 color plates, 57 halftones.

section of the exhibit, "Contesting Places," showcased maps that reported on the course and consequences of human conflict or which were utilized in the conduct of war. "Conquering Distances," our fourth section focused on maps dedicated to movement, navigation, and conquest of space. Here we saw how the design of maps was transformed over time to fulfill the needs of evolving transportation technologies. Next, "Celebrating the City," demonstrated how maps and views captured the essence of urban geography, architecture, and social life from Renaissance Venice to 1930s Chicago. Finally, "Plotting the Countryside" explored the variety of maps made to envision, settle, and manage a variety of rural landscapes from colonial Mexico to nineteenth-century rural Illinois.

Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library and its sumptuous catalogue were made possible by the generous support of LaSalle Bank Chicago and Rand McNally and Company, Roger and Julie Baskes, Art and Jan Holzheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kelly, Mary Ann and Barry MacLean, Andrew McNally III, Jossy and Ken Nebenzahl, and Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Ruggles, Jr. Copies of the 104-page catalogue, which sells for \$20, are available from the Newberry Library Bookstore, (phone 312-255-3520; email newberrybooks1@msn.com), or from the University of Chicago Press, www.press.uchicago.edu.

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography was founded in 1972 at the Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through public programs, research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information about the Center is available on request from the Director, James R. Akerman, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610; email akermanj@newberry.org; or visit www.newberry.org/nl/smith/L3rsmith.html.

Recently Published

Reviews

Westrem, Scott D. *The Hereford Map: A Transcription and Translation of the Legends with Commentary. Terrarum orbis: History of the Representation of Space in Text and Image*, vol. 1. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2001. 476 p., maps. Hardcover. ISBN: 2-503-51056-6. EUR 70.

Kline, Naomi Reed. *A Wheel of Memory: The Hereford Mappamundi*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2001. 1 CD-ROM. ISBN: 0-472-00274-0. \$59.95.

The first year of the new millennium produced two very different treatments of one of the great cartographic treasures of the last millennium. The map in Hereford Cathedral, England, produced about the year 1300, is the largest surviving mappamundi, and its general features are described and illustrated in most histories of cartography. The two sources reviewed here enable us to get “up close and personal” to the great map by providing historical background and detailed readings of all the map’s inscriptions. Scott Westrem’s book is a traditional scholarly monograph, handsomely printed on glossy paper and with 24 pages of color photographs of sections of the map and a folding reproduction of the entire map laid in the back. After a succinct, carefully documented introduction to the history of the map, its sources and analogues, and the editorial principles of this edition, we get to the heart of the matter: 427 pages with full transcriptions, translations, and commentary on each of the 1,091 legends that fill the map and its borders. The legends are keyed to numbers on the color plates. The work concludes with four appendices: an “Index to Primary and Secondary Sources Cited in the Commentary” which includes, for example, five columns each of citations to the Bible and Isidore of Seville; a “Table of Correspondences between the Hereford Map and the Expositio Mappae Mundi” (a recently discovered medieval text); indexes to key words on the map, in both the original language and English; and “Identifications of Depictions without Legends or Mislabeled.” This is a rich, solid scholarly volume that will be an essential tool for any future work on the Hereford Map.

But by way of presenting the map to a wider audience and stretching the academic envelope a bit, Naomi Kline has put together a delightful CD on the map that manages to be intellectually rigorous, graphically compelling, rich in detail, and fun to use. After an animated introduction, with original musical accompaniment, the user sees a “contents page” listing 4 “chapters” and 12 appendices. The first chapter provides an introduction to “Wheels of Memory,” various uses of rota as mnemonic devices in the medieval world. The second chapter treats mappaemundi in general, while the third provides a history of the Hereford map. Chapter 4, “A Frame of Reference,” provides a guided tour

of the visual and textual riches that surround the map proper. Other sections, which I’ve called “appendices,” provide illustrated essays on the map’s geography and its illustrations of, and references to, animals, strange races, Alexander the Great, the Bible, and the crusades. For scholarly apparatus, one clicks on the headings for glossary, bibliography, image sources, credits, and “help.” A final “browse” feature gives alphabetical access to all the legends on the map (1,070, by Kline’s count), with translations and a blow-up of the feature on the map.

With a book, it’s pretty easy to get a sense of the overall scope and level of detail in the coverage. With a CD, it’s easy to see individual trees, harder to get a sense of the forest. The sheer amount of information contained here, and the enormous variety of ways to query it, gives this reviewer pause; the hour I spent with it only scratched the surface. Suffice it to say that Kline’s innovative package presents much to inform and educate and may well be a model for the presentation of maps in this format. Westrem’s commentaries tend to be longer and more detailed. He also keys his discussions to high-quality photographs of the original manuscript, whereas Kline’s reproductions come from a redrawn facsimile. The facsimile is highly accurate and generally perfectly adequate, but there are instances in which Westrem can give a more nuanced reading. To take just one example, looking up “Satirii” in Kline’s “browse” mode, one gets a about 170 words, including a quotation from Isidore’s description of satyrs and a nice blow up of the drawing with the single word legend “Satirii.” In Westrem, we get about 250 words of commentary including the information “the legend was originally described in two lines of text, with approximately four words on the first line and three on the second, which are now illegible even with ultra-violet light,” and indeed, the blurred remnants of these lines can be seen in his reproduction.

Despite much intellectual overlap, the works are quite different in conception and surprisingly complimentary. Both belong in any serious collection on the history of cartography.

Robert W. Karrow, Jr.
The Newberry Library

Also Received

Rebert, Paula, Ed. *La Gran Linea: Mapping the United States-Mexico Boundary*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2001. 259pp. Hardcover, ISBN: 029277110X. \$45.00

Plamondon, Martin, II. *Lewis and Clark Trail Maps: A Cartographic Reconstruction*, Volume I. Washington State University Press, 2000. 206pp. Spiral-bound, ISBN: 0874222346. \$65.00

Smith Center News

HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY FELLOWSHIPS

Thanks to the generous support of Arthur and Jan Holzheimer, the Newberry Library is able each year to offer short-term fellowships in the History of Cartography for scholars wishing to work in the Library's internationally renowned map collections. The fellowships are open to applicants holding a Ph.D. and to Ph.D. students at the dissertation stage. Proposed projects must be related to the history of cartography and require cartographic materials in the Newberry Library. Fellowships are restricted to work in residence in the Library for periods of two weeks to two months. A stipend of \$1,200 per month accompanies the fellowship. The most recent fellowships went to Giorgio Mangani, an independent scholar from Ancona, and to Philip Steinberg (Florida State University). Mangani was here in summer 2001 to work on his project entitled "Moral Cartography," which examines the moral and religious dimensions of the work of Mercator, Ortelius, and their contemporaries. In June and July 2002, Steinberg visited to work on his project, "The Origins of the Territorial State in Early Modern Marine Cartography," which examines the role of Renaissance maritime mapping in preparing the ground for the appearance of the territorial state in Europe. The next application deadline is February 20, 2003. For further information contact the Committee on Awards, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610; email research@newberry.org; or visit online at www.newberry.org/nl/research/L3rfellowships.html.

HISTORIC MAPS IN K-12 CLASSROOMS

Teachers of humanities subjects nation-wide are invited to join the almost 200 teachers who are already testing the "Historic Maps in K-12 Classrooms" website. As a resource for teaching the geographic aspects of American History, the website features historic maps from the Newberry collections that are accompanied by lesson plans and supplemental images and texts. Thirteen units are now accessible on-line or on a CD version of the website. Five more units will be added in January. The site is currently available to teachers who have registered as testers. A revised version of the site, based on feedback from teacher-testers, will be publically launched in the summer of 2003. If you would like to test this website, please visit www.newberry.org/K12.html or contact the Smith Center at (312)255-3659; e-mail smithctr@newberry.org. Testing may take place through June 2003; registration closes in April.

OXFORD COMPANION TO EXPLORATION

Dr. David Buisseret, former director of the Smith Center and current Garrett Professor of the History of Cartography and Southwestern Studies at the University of Texas at Arlington, is editor-in-chief of the *Oxford Companion to Exploration*. This project, based at the Newberry Library, seeks to create a single volume reference

work that will provide an authoritative synthesis about the aspect of the human spirit that has long pursued knowledge of unknown spaces. The *Companion* will feature approximately 200 cartographic images, many from the Newberry collections.

NEW SLIDE SETS PUBLISHED

Seven printed slide sets and three virtual slide sets were commentated by participants in the 2001 Popular Cartography and Society Institute. For further information concerning the institute or these publications, see page 5.

Printed Slides Sets

#28. *Romantic and Modernist Images on Twentieth Century Iowa Official State Highway Maps*, commentary by Daniel Block.

#29. *Gregorio Dati's Sfera and Geographical Education in Fifteenth-Century Florence*, commentary by Raymond Clemens.

#30. *Abstracting Africa: Thematic Mapping and British Imperialism, 1870 - 1930*, commentary by Jon Heggland.

#31. *Hiding and Highlighting Power in Eighteenth-Century North American Maps*, commentary by Andrea Foroughi.

#32. *Map Promotion in Early Modern Europe*, commentary by Christine Petto.

#33. *Going Places?: Gender and Map Use on 20th Century Road Maps*, commentary by Christina Dando.

#34. *Mapping Chicago - Making Chicago*, commentary by Robert Churchill.

Virtual Slide Sets

Cold War Cartography in Popular Magazines. Commentary by Antony Oldknow and Cyndy Hendershot.

Defining Independent Central America (1821-1950): A Cartographic Inquiry. Commentary by Jordana Dym.

Geography in Marguerite de Navarre's Heptameron. Commentary by Nancy Erickson Bouzrara.

Briefly Noted

LECTURES and SEMINARS

The twelfth series of 'Maps and Society' talks, at the Warburg Institute, University of London, began in October 2002 and runs through until May 2003. The schedule through March is as follows: **January 23, 2003:** Professor Mike Heffernan (Department of Geography, University of Nottingham), "From Russia with love? A Tsarist map of France and the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1900." **February 13, 2003:** Dr Jeremy Johns and Dr Emilie Savage-Smith (Oriental Institute, University of Oxford), "The Book

of Curiosities: A newly-discovered series of medieval Islamic maps.” **March 20, 2003:** Edwina Proudfoot (St Andrews Heritage Services, St Andrews), “John Geddy’s map of St Andrews (1580): A past and future framework.”

The **Oxford Seminars in Cartography** presents “The Admiralty Chart in the nineteenth century: a neglected resource?,” Andrew Cook (India Office Records, The British Library), on **Thursday 27 February, 2003** at 5pm in the School of Geography and the Environment, Mansfield Road, Oxford. For further details contact nam@bodley.ox.ac.uk or 01865 287119.

INSTITUTES and CONFERENCES

The **Miami International Map Fair** will be held at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130 from **January 31, 2002 — February 2, 2003**. For information and registration materials, contact Marcia Kanner, Map Fair Coordinator, at the above address or by telephone at (305) 375-1492.

“Landscapes on Paper—Mapping Today and Yesterday,” the **31st Annual Conference of the Australian Map Circle** will be held at Macquarie University in Sydney on **February 2—5, 2003**. For more information contact Bill Stinson or John Cain, President - Australian Map Circle, c/o Geography Department, The University of Melbourne, 3010, Australia; phone +61-3-8344 8416, fax +61-3-9347 0974.

The **International Conference on the Future of the Book** will take place in Cairns, Australia, on **April 22—24, 2003**. Direct questions and requests for information to info@commongroundconferences.com or visit www.Book-Conference.com

The **2003 International Conference on Nolli, Imago Urbis, and Rome** will be held at the Studium Urbis Research Center in Rome, Italy from **May 31—June 2, 2003**. The conference is organized by Dr. Allan Ceen and Michelle R. LaFoe, co-ordinated by the Studium Urbis Rome, and co-hosted by the American Academy in Rome. Additional conference information is available on-line at www.studiumurbis.org/menu/conferences.html or contact Dr. Allan Ceen (06) 686-1191, e-mail a.céen@flashnet.it; or Michelle R. LaFoe, e-mail mmlafoe@mindspring.com.

FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS

The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture’s **Richard L. Morton Award** recognizing a distinguished article by an author in graduate study at the time of submission is awarded to Sara Stidstone Gronim for “Geography and Persuasion: Maps in British Colonial New York,” published in the *William and Mary Quarterly* Vol. 58, No. 2, pp. 373-402. For further information on the award,

visit www.wm.edu/oieahc/WMQ/PR.html or contact Christopher Grasso, Editor, *William and Mary Quarterly* at (757)221-1125; e-mail cdgras@wm.edu.

The Washington Map Society’s **Ristow Prize for Cartographic History and Map Librarianship** announces Gary Spurr as its 2002 winner for his paper entitled “Maps of Conquest: Indian and Spanish Maps of Mesoamerica.” Ristow Prize winners receive a \$500 cash prize, publication in *The Portolan*, and a year’s membership in the Washington Map Society for the coming year. An Honorable Mention was awarded to Rushika Hage for “The Island Book of Henricus Martellus: Charting Lands Known and Unknown.” Membership in the Washington Map Society has been awarded for the coming year. For further information, see www.washmap.org or contact Bert Johnson, 2101 Huntington Avenue, Alexandria VA 22303-1547, USA; e-mail mandraki@erols.com.

The British Library announces Heather Ewing and Alistair Maer as the fifth and sixth recipients of the **Helen Wallis Fellowship** for the 2002-03 year. Ewing, a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington DC, will undertake research for the first full-length biography of James Smithson (1765?-1829). Maer, a Transatlantic History Doctoral student at the University of Texas, Arlington, is working on English cartography and the expansion of seventeenth-century English trade. The Fellowship confers recognition by the British Library on a scholar whose work will help promote the extended and complementary use of the British Library’s book and cartographic collections in historical investigation. Fellows receive privileges similar to those of staff members and £300 to spend on British Library services. The closing dates for applications for fellowships for the academic year 2003-04 is May 1, 2003. For further information please contact Peter Barber or Maria Chang at (44) 020 7412 7524.

The **Sir George Fordham Award for Cartobibliography**, given triennially by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), has, for 2002, been granted to Dr Peter C.J. van der Krogt. Dr Van der Krogt is currently senior researcher in the Department of Cartography at the University of Utrecht and list-owner & web-master of the internet discussion list ‘MapHist.’ The decision was based especially on Dr Van der Krogt’s continuing work on the multi-volume new edition of Koeman’s *Atlantes Neerlandici* (Utrecht: HES, 1997-2001 etc., ISBN 90-6194-248-9). Further details about the prize are available at <http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/maps/prize.html>

EXHIBITS

The Harvard Map Collection is pleased to announce its current exhibit entitled: “**The All American Road Map**”. The exhibit will run from 15 September 2002 through 15 January 2003. Direct questions or comments to (617)495-2417; e-mail maps@harvard.edu.